MILTONVALE: THE WESTERN TERMINUS OF THE NARROW GAUGE, TO 1910

by

EZRA R. MORGAN

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B. D., Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky, 1950

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PREFACE

The purpose of this thesis is to present an historical account of the settlement and growth of Miltonvale, Kansas, and the surrounding community in its economic, social, and spiritual aspects.

The interest of the writer in the subject developed in this thesis grows out of the fact that he is employed by one of her institutions, Miltonvale Wesleyan College. A knowledge of the background of this community should assist the writer in more ably fulfilling his responsibilities as a citizen of the community. Then, too, a presentation of this subject will, it is hoped, be a contribution to the limited knowledge of this area of the State of Kansas.

The principal sources of information regarding this subject are newspaper articles, local and state histories, public records such as deeds, abstracts, census records, state historical society records, plat books, and county commissioners' minutes and records, and personal interviews.

CHAPTER I

MILTONVALE, THE WESTERN TERMINUS OF THE NARROW GAUGE

On May 31, 1871, a charter was granted to the Kansas Central Railway Company which resulted in the founding of "the City of Miltonvale" ten years later.[1]

Miltonvale is located at the headwaters of Chapman Creek which empties into the Smoky Hill River west of Junction City. It is situated on the divide which separates the Republican River to the north from the Solomon River to the south. The land surrounding Miltonvale is rolling country, much of it still unbroken prairie used for pasturing cattle.

The original plat of the town contained 26 blocks, and was situated on the northeast quarter of section 20, township 8, range 1 west, in Cloud County, Kansas. There have been six additions to the town: West Addition, containing 14 blocks; North Addition, containing 20 blocks; Northeast Addition, which was later vacated; Angelo's Addition, containing about 26 blocks, but not greatly developed; College Addition, containing 23 blocks, which includes the College Campus and the Camp Grounds of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Kansas Conference; and Culp Addition, which has remained relatively undeveloped.[2]

Little is known concerning the history of this area of Cloud County before its settlement which began in 1867. Zebulon M. Pike,

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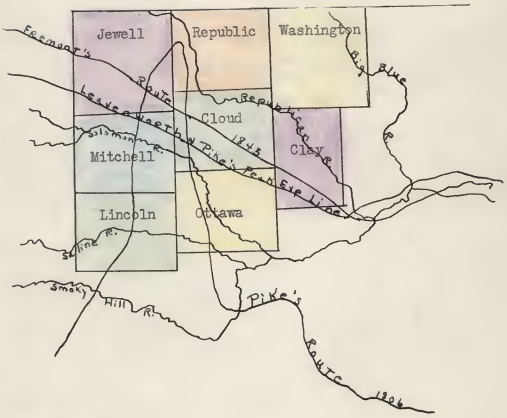
[1] Harold Crimmins, A History of the Kansas Central Railway, 1871-1935, p. 3. "The City of Miltonvale" was the title given the town in the charter of incorporation.

[2] Standard Atlas of Cloud County, Kansas (Chicago, 1917), pp. 22-23.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE I

This map shows the early expedition of Zebulon M. Pike in 1806, and Colonel John C. Fremont's second trip across Kansas in 1843, which crossed this area. Shown also is that part of the Leavenworth and Pike's Peak Express, established in 1859, which was routed through this area of Kansas.

PLATE I


Jewell
Republic
Washington
Cloud
Clay
Mitchell
Lincoln
Ottawa
Fremont's
Route
Leavenworth
Solomon R.
Republican R.
Big Blue R.
Pike's Pawnee Fork
1815
St. Vrain R.
Smoky Hill R.
Pike's
Route
1806

on his expedition through Kansas in 1806, passed within 20 to 25 miles of the present site of Miltonvale. In 1843, Colonel John C. Fremont's second trip across Kansas led him through Cloud County, probably striking through the center of what is now Starr Township, from the southeast to the northwest, and on across Cloud County into Jewell County. He may have tramped over the ground where Starr Center was later established as a postoffice, a mile east of Miltonvale.

Another early event was the establishment of the Leavenworth and Pike's Peak Express Company, in 1859, to meet the demands of a direct route to the new gold mines of western Kansas. This route ran northwest from Junction City "along the divide between Chapman's Creek and the Republican River, through Dickinson, Clay, Cloud, Mitchell, Jewell, Smith, Phillips, Norton, Decatur, Rawlins, and Cheyenne counties, out of Kansas." This express ran near the southeast part of Cloud County and may have been used as an overland road for the settlers of this part of the county.[3]

An early description of the area of Miltonvale pictures it as unsettled prairie with "just one lone tree and a water hole" on the site of what is now the Miltonvale Park.[4]

In 1867, William Zahn with his two sons, Charles and William, arrived in Kansas and located in what was later known as Starr township, a few miles southeast of the present town of Miltonvale. Zahn was born in Prussia, in 1825, and emigrated to America in 1850, taking a position in the military riding school at Hoboken,

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[3] Kansas Historical Collections, 1905-1906, 9:574-7.

[4] Miltonvale Record, September 7, 1933.

New Jersey. After a time, employment was hard to find so he decided to try the west. They traveled by rail to Junction City where Zahn met a Mr. Gabbart who promised to locate him for twenty-five dollars. They arrived at the place where Zahn homesteaded on Chapman Creek on April 10. His wife and daughter, Annie, joined them later. The first home in which they lived was a dugout on the creek bank. In 1870 a house of stone construction, measuring 24 feet wide and 40 feet long, was erected. The stone was brought from a distance by stone boat drawn by two yoke of oxen. Their only neighbor for a time was an old trapper named Tiffany, who lived in a dugout on the bank of the creek.[5]

In 1870 the Tanzer family settled in the neighborhood, and were the closest neighbors to the Zahns. George T. Mock, James Hanson, J. W. Shaw, and John Vine had arrived in Starr township also by 1870; the population of the entire county being only 2,323 at that time. By 1871 a steady flow of immigrants moved into Cloud County. Among those who settled in Starr township were O. A. Loomis, C. W. Woodworth, and Orin Scott. On January 16, 1871, the United States land office was opened in Concordia and a long line of homesteaders waited their turn to file claim to the land they had settled. Land claims were more rapidly entered in this office than in any other in the United States.[6]

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[5] Miltonvale Record, Sept. 28, 1933; E. F. Hollibaugh, Biographical History of Cloud County, Kansas, p. 865.

[6] Miltonvale Record, Sept. 7, 1933; The Miltonvale News, Aug. 11, 1887; The Homestead Guide (title page missing; in Concordia library, listed as Kansas), pp. 237-249. The 1870 Kansas census figures of Solomon township, which at that time included Starr township, were compared with the 1875 census figures of Starr township for some of the above information.

By 1873 the population of the southeastern part of the county was sufficient to warrant the organization of Starr township. This township had been a part of Solomon township, which originally included the entire southern part of the county, extending 30 miles east and west and 9 to 12 miles north from the southern boundary of the county. The township was divided January 2, 1872, and Meredith township was organized from the eastern part.[7] This township was then partitioned in October, 1873, and Starr township formed the extreme southeastern township of the county.[8] William Gilchrist, P. M. Gilchrist, Tom Barrett, Dan Waymire, Oscar Burdick, James J. (Major) Brooks, and Jet Brooks met at the farm of Tom Barrett and effected its organization. Oscar Burdick suggested the name "Starr" for the township, thinking a county by the name of Cloud needed another "Starr", since Arion and Aurora townships had been organized the previous fall with the names that suggested "Evening Star" and "Morning Star" respectively.[9] The petition for the new township was granted by the County Commissioners October 6, 1873, and a special election was ordered for township officers to be held on November 4. The polling place was the Zahnville Post Office.[10] On November 7, 1873, the board of Commissioners met as a board of Canvassers to canvass the votes and declared the following persons duly elected as Starr township officers:

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[7] Hollibaugh, op. cit., pp. 70-71.

[8] Cloud County Commissioners' Journal A, p. 186.

[9] Miltonvale Record, Oct. 5, 1933; Hollibaugh, op. cit., p. 72; interview with George Palmer, at Miltonvale, Kansas, June 10, 1955.

[10] Cloud County Commissioners' Journal A, p. 186.

J. T. Brooks, trustee; H. H. Manlove, clerk; O. A. Loomis, treasurer; E. S. Gillies, justice of the peace; G. T. Mock, justice of the peace; Otto Zahn, constable; D. G. Gillies, constable; D. Scott, constable; D. Waymire, constable.[11]

In the regular election on April 7, 1874, the following men were elected to offices in Starr township: J. W. Matthews, trustee; A. B. Fry, clerk; O. A. Loomis, treasurer; D. G. Gillies, constable; and D. Waymire, constable.[12]

As shown in Table 1, there were 68 families living in Starr township by 1875, with the total population of the township numbering 255. Of this number, 132 were male and 127 were female. Of those born in a foreign country, 20 were male and 14 were female.[13]

By 1880, there was a settler on almost every quarter section, with 118 families living in 115 dwellings. The total population of the township reached 565 that year.[14]

The need for closer transportation facilities seemed essential, for large crops were being raised and stock was being fattened for the market. The closest marketing towns were from 20 to 25 miles away which made it difficult for most of the settlers to market their crops.[15] However, the answer to their marketing problem was on its way in the form of the Kansas Central Railway, which had reached Butler, a new Irish settlement 19 miles west of

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[11] Ibid., p. 194.

[12] Ibid., p. 223.

[13] Taken from the (March) 1875 census of Starr Township, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

[14] Miltonvale Record, Sept. 7, 1933. Tenth census, 1880, Kansas, Cloud, Starr township, 4:1-12. Also see Table 3, p. 27.

[15] The Miltonvale News, Oct. 6, 1882.

Table 1. Starr township census for the year 1875.[16]

Head of family	Nativity	Family residence	Other occupants of household
Adams, William	Kentucky	Missouri	Diantha, Jas., Geo., Heugh
Angelo, Ira	Illinois	Missouri	Bernette, S. A., Emnes, Rose, John
Austill, George	Ohio	Missouri	E. J., M. J., M. E., Mary
Ball, C. P.	Ohio	Nebraska	Charlotte, M. J., Thomas, Kattie
Barrett, Martin	Wisconsin	Michigan	
Barrett, T. M.	Ireland	Wisconsin	Isabella, Lottie, Ed., Law
Barrett, W.	Mass.	Wisconsin	Mary
Brooks, T. J.	Tenn.	Illinois	Sarah, J. W., Chas., Gertrude, Elizabeth, Thos., Clara
Brown, J. W.	Indiana	Iowa	Malinda, L. E.
Burdick, M. O.			Malysa, Baby
Busey, S. W.	Indiana	Indiana	C. A., Pardee
Canfield, W. W.	New York	New York	Mary A., Clinton, J. W.
Colvin, John	Ireland	Indiana	
Covey, Alex	Indiana	Missouri	Frances, Sherman, M. E., Homes
Crothers, John	Penn.	Illinois	Jane, A. E., H. C., Sarah, J. O.
Davidson, George	Virginia	Iowa	Nancy, Andrew J., David, Laura, Eleanor, Margaret
Davidson, Jas. T.	Iowa	Iowa	
Davis, D. C.	Penn.	Iowa	L. C., A. L., G. E.
Dunn, John M.	Penn.	Missouri	Elizabeth, Agnes, Jane, Jahn A., M. A.
Fowles, Jas. C.	Ireland	Illinois	Amanda, W. H., Charles, Anna M.
Fry, A. B.	Ohio	Missouri	E. C., Thos., R. M., Lily, C. S., Pleasant, Ambrose
Gilchrist, C. W. J.			Gilchrist, Baby
Gordon, Jas.	Wisconsin	Iowa	Melisa B.
Graham, J. F.	Germany	Illinois	Hilda, Hiram, Lucy, George, Charles, Frank
Greenlee, James			
Grunke, August	Germany	Germany	Wilhelmina
Grunke, Ludwig	Germany	Germany	Henrietta, Herman, Amelia
Hale, Charles G.	Wisconsin	Colorado	Helen, Nelly, A. G.
Hanson, James	Ireland	Ireland	Jane, Mary, Will, John, Stinson, Edward
Heusted, L. G.	New York	Michigan	Mary, B.
Holmes, Theodore	Virginia	Iowa	Hattie, T. A.
Howe, Byron	New York	Missouri	E. J., Chas., Belle

Table 1 (concl.).

Head of family	Nativity	Family residence	Other occupants of household
Loveland, John G.	New York	Wisconsin	Julia, Cora, Will, A. J., Irene
Manlove, H. H.	Illinois	Iowa	Alice, Nora, R. H.
Martin, Albert	Penn.	Iowa	Anna
Maskey, G. W.	Maryland	Missouri	
Mason, James	Indiana	Iowa	
Mason, Mary	Ohio	Iowa	Isabella
Matthews, J. W.	Indiana	Missouri	S. E., Anna, Laura C.
Matthews, W. T.	Indiana	Missouri	Remedia, Victor, Arthur
Mayberry, John R.	Illinois	Iowa	Susanah, Will, James, Cora, Martha
McGee, Will F.	Illinois	Missouri	Nancy
McCaster, Joseph K.	Scotland	Missouri	Eleanor, Mary
McCaster, R. R.	Virginia	Missouri	T. Y., M. E., James J.
Miller, John H.	Illinois	Missouri	Sarah E.
Mock, George T.	Illinois	Iowa	Mary, Will H., John W., James, Ellen, M. E., Flora
Myer, E. C.	Indiana	Illinois	A., Jonas H., Mary E.
Neill, Benjamin	Ireland	New York	Matilda, Frances, Elizabeth, Sarah, Joseph, Mary, George
Neill, James	Ireland	New York	
Passel, Edmond	Ohio	Iowa	S. W.
Phelps, Levi E.	New York	Iowa	Elizabeth, Clara, Phebe, S. W.
Phelps, Rezin S.	Penn.	Iowa	
Rodgers, Robert M.	Illinois	Illinois	
Scott, Orin	Vermont	Wisconsin	Susan
Shaiffer, Jacob	Missouri	Iowa	Sarah, Edith, Daniel, C. E.
Shaw, J. W.	England	England	Elizabeth, F. M.
Shrieves, John			Margaret, Emma
Smith, S. P.	Vermont	Iowa	A. G.
Stier, Victoria	Germany	Germany	
Vine, John	England	Illinois	Angeline, S. J., C. H., Emma, John
Wallace, Clinton	Indiana	Iowa	Mary, Jerome, William
Waters, W.	Indiana	Iowa	Charlotte, Eva, Charles
Waymire, Daniel	Missouri	Iowa	Mary, Cora, S.E., Rebecca
Wick, James M.	Indiana	Missouri	
Winters, G. G.	New York	Iowa	Nancy, Dora
Woodworth, C. W.	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Harnett, Chester, Mary, Dora, Olive
Zahn, Otto	Prussia	Calif.	Phebe, F. W.
Zahn, William	Prussia	New York	Henriette, Charles

[16] Taken from the (March) 1875 Kansas census of Starr Township, on record at the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

Onaga, the middle of September, 1879. By the end of July, 1880, it had reached Garrison, about 50 miles away.[17] In the meantime railroad officials were working the territory on west to raise bonds to finance the construction of the railroad.

On February 17, 1880, the County Commissioners met in special session to consider a petition from 55 tax payers of Starr township for a special election on whether to subscribe to $10,000 worth of bonds in the Kansas Central Railway. The election was called for Tuesday, March 23, 1880, and 89 of the 94 votes cast were in favor of the bond issue.[18]

Zahnville, a post office located in a store about a mile inside the east boundary of Starr township and about centrally located north and south in the township, had high hopes that they might become the railroad town and marketing center. In March of 1881, Starr Center was established two miles west of Zahnville, also anticipating the profitable returns as a railroad town.[19] The railroad could not get the required land for sidetracks here, however, so the town was moved one mile west where all the land needed was obtained from Milton Tootle, of St. Joseph, Missouri.[20]

Tootle had obtained section 20 of Starr township, along with other lands, in April of 1869, when he and several others, including Dudley M. Steele, purchased large tracts of land involving over $130,000 from the State of Kansas, according to the provisions

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[17] Crimmins, op. cit., pp. 23, 26.

[18] Cloud County Commissioners' Journal B, pp. 301-308.

[19] The Miltonvale News, Oct. 6, 1882.

[20] Miltonvale Record, Oct. 5, 1933.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE II

This map gives the boundaries of Miltonvale as they were in 1917. It was taken from the Standard Atlas of Cloud County, 1917 edition.

The original town was platted November 21, 1881, and filed December 11, 1881.

West Addition was platted May 19, 1884, and filed May 28, 1884.

North Addition was platted May 20, 1884, and filed May 29, 1884.

Northeast Addition was platted June 21, 1884, filed May 1, 1885; vacated July 24, 1911; and filed the same day.

Angelo's Addition was platted December 10, 1887, and filed January 21, 1888.

College Addition was platted and filed March 16, 1909.

Culp's Addition was filed October 18, 1909.

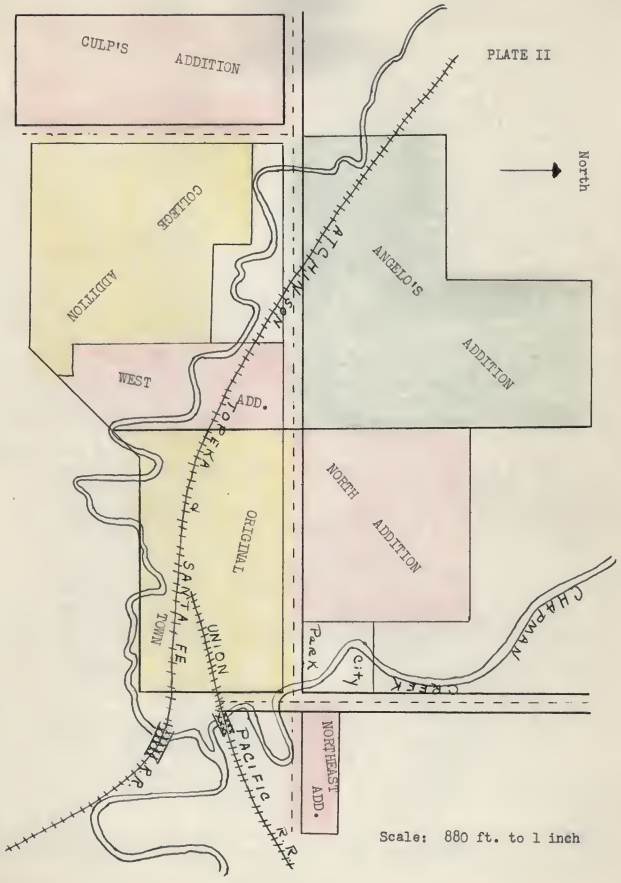
PLATE II
North
CULP'S ADDITION
COLLEGE ADDITION
WEST ADD.
ATCHISON
ANGELO'S ADDITION
NORTH ADDITION
ORIGINAL TOWN
TOPEKA & SANTA FE
UNION
PACIFIC R.R.
MISSOURI PACIFIC R.R.
NORTHEAST ADD.
City Park
CHAPMAN CREEK
Scale: 880 ft. to 1 inch

of an act of the Kansas Legislature, approved February 23, 1866, entitled, "An act providing for the sale of public lands to aid in the construction of certain railroads."[21] Having purchased this land as a group in the name of Dudley M. Steele, it was necessary for the land to be divided in a partition case in the district court for Marshall County, Kansas. In this partition case, section 20 along with other land was assigned to Milton Tootle.[22] The northeast corner of this section was platted November 21, 1881, and filed the first day of the following month at the county record office as the town site of Miltonvale. The original town measured 2640 feet long east and west, and 1525 feet wide north and south at the east end and 1522 feet wide north and south at the west end.[23]

The railroad company named the townsite in honor of Milton Tootle, its founder. It was first suggested that the town be named Tootletown. Tootleville was thought of also, but Miltonvale seemed more pleasing so this name was adopted.[24]

Milton Tootle was well known in financial circles, and was probably the most outstanding man in commercial circles west of the Mississippi River in his day. He was born February 23, 1823, in Ross County, Ohio. His business career began at the age of 13 when he entered a mercantile house. He afterward worked for his

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[21] Record of Deeds Office of Cloud County, Deed Record Vol. A, pp. 19-27.

[22] Ibid., Deed Record Vol. K "Misc.", pp. 173-187.

[23] Ibid., Plat Book Vol. 2, p. 11.

[24] Hollibaugh, op. cit., p. 838; The Miltonvale News, Oct. 6, 1882.

uncle awhile, then was employed by George Smith, first as a clerk and later as manager of a new house of merchandise in Atchison County, Missouri. In 1848 he began his own business in Oregon, Holt County, Missouri, but in 1849 he returned, as a partner, to George Smith in St. Joseph at Smith's request. Tootle established dry-goods houses in Omaha, Sioux City, and Council Bluffs. He was also head of a flourishing wholesale dry goods house in Kansas City. At his death on January 2, 1887, he was considered St. Joseph's foremost citizen and leading business man. His estimated worth was $4,500,000.[25]

While the Kansas Central Railroad was being laid through the town of Butler, there was other construction work of a different nature going on almost 60 miles west. George Myer had purchased the southeast quarter of section 17 in Starr township from his brother John, and was in the process of building a stone house for his farm home. This was the only house in the vicinity of Miltonvale before the town was laid out, although it was not included in the original town plat because it was located just north of the section line, in section 17. He also erected the first building after the city was platted, beginning construction March 7, 1882. It was a large, well-built structure and was used as a livery barn.[26] The first residence within the city limits was built by C. E. McDaniel and was probably rushed to completion to accommodate the expected arrival of Anna McDaniel, the first baby born in Miltonvale. The lumber for this house and a store building that

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[25] Weekly Herald, St. Joseph, Missouri, Jan. 6, 1887.

[26] Miltonvale News, Oct. 6, 1882.

McDaniel built was hauled from Clay Center.[27] Sometime in 1881, W. T. Matthews moved his store from Starr Center to Miltonvale, thus making his store the first in the town. The postoffice was moved with the store and Matthews was the first postmaster of Miltonvale.[28] By the end of September, 1882, the town boasted 50 buildings with some of the stores carrying stocks of goods worth from $5,000 to $10,000.[29]

The Kansas Central Railroad, in the meantime, had progressed slowly westward. By Christmas of 1881 the road had reached Clay Center and the last 20 miles to Miltonvale were completed on April 1, 1882. According to the charter, about 300 more miles would be constructed at a later date, but no attempt seemed to be made to continue construction west of Miltonvale.[30] The western terminus of the narrow gauge had been reached. The establishment of this marketing center was the result of the patience and sacrifice of the early pioneers in settling and developing the territory around Miltonvale.

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[27] Miltonvale Record, Oct. 5, 1933.
[28] Hollibaugh, op. cit., p. 838.
[29] Miltonvale News, Sept. 28, 1882.
[30] Crimmins, op. cit., p. 27.

CHAPTER II

THE EARLY SETTLERS AND THEIR PIONEER EXPERIENCES

The nature and amount of publicity a new territory receives is an important factor affecting its settlement. "The Great American Desert" myth had to be dispelled from the minds of people before they were willing to venture west of the Osage River, for Zebulon Pike, who had explored the region in 1806, had reported that west of this river nothing was inhabitable but the river valleys, with grazing as the only practicable occupation. Pike's reports were confirmed by Major Long's expedition, and by others.[1]

The California gold rush, the transcontinental railway surveys, the colorful advertising of Kansas during the territorial period, the passage of the Homestead Act in 1862, the rapid laying of railroads westward and their extensive advertising, and the suppression of the Plains Indians after 1869 all helped to dispel the myth of "The Great American Desert" and bring settlers into the region.[2]

The hardships of the early settlers would be difficult to enumerate or describe. Indian raids; storms with accompanying wind, hail, snow, and floods; cyclones; insects; low prices; deprivation; and sickness each took its toll on the strength and life of these hardy pioneers.

Suppression of the Plains Indians after 1869 did not wipe out the fear of them altogether. The atrocities of that decade still lived in the memories of many. In the autumn of 1860 Moses Heller,

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[1] Clark and Roberts, People of Kansas, p. 19.

[2] Ibid., pp. 20, 21.

pioneer settler on Elk Creek, in Cloud County, had been visited by several hundred Indians. They gave warning at that parley that the white man was not to settle beyond the eastern boundary line of the Indian hunting grounds granted them by the Great Father in treaties. The "dead line" ran from beyond the Arkansas, crossing the Solomon at the mouth of Pipe Creek, where Minneapolis is now located, up Pipe Creek to the divide and over to the head of Wolf Creek, thence to the Republican, and on north to the mouth of the Big Sandy in Nebraska, thus cutting Cloud County in two just west of center. During the Indian uprisings of this region, no murder was committed east of this line, but many were committed west of it.[3] This "dead line" was from five to ten miles west of what was later known as Starr township but the fear of Indian raids no doubt extended some distance east of it.

When the settlement of Starr township was begun in 1867, the suppression of the Plains Indians was almost accomplished. In May of 1866 there had occurred the massacre of six men on the little Cheyenne, a tributary of Buffalo Creek, about 12 miles west of Concordia, in Cloud County. These men were on a buffalo hunting expedition when they encountered the Indians. After a long running fight they were all slain and brutally mutilated.

On August 11, 1868, there was an outbreak on the Solomon, near the present town of Glasco, when a number of settlers were killed. Two days later Sarah White was taken captive and her father, Benjamin White, was murdered by Indian marauders, just west of Concordia on White's Creek.

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[3] The Homestead Guide, p. 243.

The last outbreak in Cloud County came on June 2, 1869, a few miles west of Concordia, on the Republican River, when 12-year-old Ezra Adkins was murdered by a member of a band of over 40 Cheyennes.[4]

Though these outbreaks were all west of the "dead line" the first settlers of Starr township had many Indian scares. On one occasion about 40 Indians appeared at the Zahn homestead. Charles Zahn and his sister were home with their father, who was ill, when the Indians came begging for food. Three of them came inside and began whittling the chairs with their bowie knives. The elder Zahn arose and confronted them with his gun. Charles and his sister in the meantime had slipped away to notify the neighbors, who came and drove them away. It was not unusual for the Indians to camp along the creeks, drying and curing the meat they had secured from their hunting expeditions.[5]

Storms accompanied by wind, snow, hail, and flood often proved disastrous to these early pioneers. While the Zahns were living in a dugout on Chapman Creek a heavy rain fell, flooding the dugout and forcing the family to flee to the hills. Many of the household goods were washed away.[6] On another occasion Zahn was returning from Junction City with provisions when he was caught in a storm. While attempting to cross a swollen stream, his wagon was overturned and groceries worth $100 were swept away.[7]

On the night of June 15, 1883, there was a heavy rain and

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[4] Hollibaugh, op. cit., pp. 39-54.

[5] Ibid., p. 866.

[6] Miltonvale Record, Sept. 28, 1933.

[7] Hollibaugh, p. 866. (op. cit.)

wind storm which caused much damage in and around Miltonvale. The wind broke windows, moved several houses from their foundations and blew down others, and caused other damage. The most serious damage, however, was the wrecking of the train seven miles east of Miltonvale. While the train was crossing bridge number 1599 the passenger car, baggage car, and the freight car all fell from the bridge to the chasm 20 feet below. Each landed on its top and turned over and stood erect. No one was killed but several passengers were hurt.[8]

On another occasion, in January of 1886, the train jumped the track between Miltonvale and Leavenworth because of a heavy snowstorm. During the month of December, 1885, and the month of January, 1886, a heavy amount of snow fell, drifting over the prairie and filling ravines, thus making it dangerous for people to undertake shortcuts across the country.[9] The train on the narrow gauge had been delayed 12 days in December before it reached Miltonvale. Six sacks of mail were brought into town when the trains were able to run again.[10] By January 27, the snow was so deep that it took three shovelers to toss the snow up the huge snow banks to the top. They worked one at the bottom, one half way up, and the third on top.[11] An item in the Kansas City Times vividly portrayed the storm as follows:

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[8] The Miltonvale News, June 15, 1883.

[9] Ibid., Jan. 20, 1886.

[10] Ibid., Jan. 6, 1886.

[11] Ibid., Jan. 27, 1886.

> Reports have been received which indicate that the recent storm was the worst that was ever experienced on the Kansas plains. Colonel S. S. Prouty, editor of the Dodge City Cowboy, arrived from Dodge City today, and states the death and destruction wrought by the storm is something fearful and positively without a parallel in the history of the state. At Dodge City the velocity of the wind was forty-four miles per hour, and the mercury ten degrees below zero. Business throughout the western half of the state has been paralyzed for two weeks past. Three hundred men during the worst part of the storm were engaged in clearing the track at Spearville, near Dodge City. In many sections on the Santa Fe line the snow plow was ineffective and the snow had to be cleared by the slow process of shoveling....Many persons who were out in the storm are missing and it is thought they have perished. The suffering among the new settlers on the plains is beyond description. Most of them had erected mere wooden habitations. Coal is the only fuel that can be obtained and in many instances it has to be hauled 75 to 100 miles.[12]

It is sometimes hard for the city-dweller to fully appreciate the importance of the weather to the farmer. If it rains three inches, the drainage system in the city swiftly takes it from the streets but that same three inches of rain, if falling rapidly enough, may wash away a corn crop or wheat harvest and leave the farmer without much income. The corn might be planted again but the wheat is gone. Hail often causes tremendous damage, also. Late in the month of May in 1888 occurred one such storm, with hail nearly three feet deep in some of the ravines. The Miltonvale News gave the following description concerning that storm:

> The first intimation we had of it was a tremendous peal of thunder which shook us out of bed 'on the fly.' The heavens seemed ablaze and deafening peals of thunder made one think that the judgment was at hand. Just then the hail struck. We thought of everything horrible, but nothing like this had ever run across our experience. The wind shrieked, the thunder rolled in heavy cadences, the hail swished and poured in vollies against houses, stock and the solid earth. Persons were compelled to

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[12] Ibid., Jan. 27, 1886.

speak in a high key to be heard. After an hour we looked forth. Such a sight. The streets, alleys, yards and gardens were covered six inches with hail stones. Gardens were a thing of the past, having been beaten to the ground.

Hiram Scott was a great sufferer. He lost over 200 apple trees, bruised, peeled and cleared of fruit, leaves and bark. His stock suffered badly. Loss about $1,000.

Otto Zahn lost 65 head of hogs, and all his garden stuff. Hailstones were picked up two inches in diameter. John Aquires had a house blown down a few miles south of the city.[13]

Many others suffered loss in this storm.

The following year, from June 20 to July 23, there fell in this area of Kansas a total of 17½ inches of rain.[14]

However, in 1887, there was a drought which did much to precipitate the "bust" that came in 1888. One reporter to the Miltonvale News described conditions thus: "Well, Mr. Editor, my ink is nearly dried up with the 'rest' of the crops of Ottawa county. Corn is completely ruined and there is no prairie hay to mow."[15]

In 1892, crop failures brought on desperate attempts to raise crops. Some of the citizens of Miltonvale and the surrounding neighbors were willing to go to great measures for rain and they came within one-fourth inch of moisture of losing $400 for their attempts. Some Rain Makers traveling through the country, made a contract with the Miltonvale citizens to cause an inch of rain to fall within a certain number of hours for $400. An account of the interesting experiment follows.

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[13] Ibid., May 31, 1888.
[14] Ibid., Aug. 1, 1889.
[15] Ibid., Aug. 4, 1887.

> The men went to work in a little old shanty in the north end of town. They cut a hole in the roof, run a long stove pipe up in the air some 15 or 20 feet, nailed all the windows shut, made it dark so no one could see into the house, locked the doors so no one could get in. Then they started what they called a chemical smoke from which they were going to produce rain. Every so often one or two of them came out of the house with 2 or 3 jugs and said they were out of chemicals and had to go to Clay Center to get them as they did not have what was needed in Miltonvale. They never would tell what they had in their jugs. They would lock themselves up for many hours at a time leaving the anxious people of Miltonvale lined up in rows along the road, watching the blue smoke coming out of the long pipe, and gazing at the clouds, hoping for the rain to come. When the time was up for rain they asked for an extension of time 24 hours more. The people anxious of course for rain gladly granted them extra time and sure enough it did rain. But they were short ¼ inch of water to collect on the contract they had made. They threatened to sue for the money but after they learned we were short on cash they left for other parts of the state to continue their rain project. We learned later they had many such stations in different parts of the state so when they failed in one place they made good at another. However, we were within ¼ of an inch of rain losing $400 to those birds.
>
> When they went away they left very little to check them up by: a few decks of cards, some cigar stubs, a few crackers and a few sausage skins. They had the jugs so we couldn't smell of them and tell what they really had in the ones they brought from Clay Center. Knowing that Kansas is a bone-dry state we are satisfied it wasn't hootch.[16]

A terror of the plains is the funnel-shaped form of a cyclone. On May 2, 1895, there were six fatalities and 30 injured as a result of one of these death-dealing monsters. Scores of farm buildings were destroyed, orchards and groves uprooted, and much live stock killed as the cyclone ripped its destructive path over the countryside. It began about three miles southeast of Miltonvale and traveled northward toward St. Joseph, then northeastward

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[16] Miltonvale Record, Sept. 21, 1933.

through the northwest corner of Clay County. It crossed the Republican River between Clifton and Morganville and terminated near the Washington County line. It had traveled 20 miles and did not exceed three-fourths of a mile in width, but had left much destruction and grief in its wake.[17]

Another sudden catastrophe that befell the earlier settlers was the grasshopper plague in 1874. This unwelcome visitor came at a most unfortunate time for the crops had not been very good that summer and, too, as many as one-half of the people of Cloud County had taken their claims in that year or the one previous, so were in very poor condition to play host to such a large gathering. A forceful description of the results of the grasshopper plague in Cloud County follows:

> On the twentieth of July, 1874, the 'hoppers came, and in a few hours, the settler saw his whole crop, the dependence of himself and family, totally consumed by the myriad hosts of the ravenous little locust, that swarmed down from the Rocky Mountains, and literally covered the earth, and devoured every green thing. Not only did they devour the growing crop, but they prevented the sowing of winter wheat, eating the kernel when sowed, and the young sprout as soon as it appeared above ground. The suffering caused by the devastation was very great, but, by the kindly assistance of friends in the east, the majority stayed on their claims, and were rewarded by an excellent crop in 1875.[18]

Major James J. Brooks, who lived three miles east of what was later the town of Miltonvale, found it necessary to kill his cow because of lack of vegetation or other feed. While his son, Jep, walked to Minneapolis to get enough salt to make corn beef, the

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[17] Hollibaugh, op. cit., p. 126.

[18] John P. Edwards, Atlas of Cloud County, Quincy, Illinois, 1885, p. 10.

meat was kept cool by throwing cold water on it. When relief from the east arrived, Major Brooks had charge of distributing it to the neighbors.[19]

Steadily declining prices from 1870 to 1897 more than offset the increase in production resulting from better methods of farming. Lower prices than those shown in Table 2 were paid to the average farmer for these prices are as of December 1, whereas most of the farmers had to sell soon after harvest, and often on a glutted market, with other disadvantages, making the profit much smaller than it may appear in Table 2.[20] For example, in 1889 the table shows the price of corn at 35.9 cents per bushel, whereas the actual price of corn sold in Kansas that year was as low as ten cents a bushel and was used for fuel in place of coal.[21]

Table 2. Average market prices of wheat and corn, 1870-97.

Years	Wheat	Corn
1870-1873	106.7	43.1
1874-1877	94.4	40.9
1878-1881	100.6	43.1
1882-1885	80.2	39.8
1886-1889	74.8	35.9
1890-1893	70.9	41.7
1894-1897	63.3	29.7

Through many of these disasters and hard times the settlers had to deny themselves of many of their wants and some of their

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[19] Interview with Mrs. Clara Kuhnle, daughter of Major Brooks, at Miltonvale, Kansas, July 16, 1955.

[20] John D. Hicks, The Populist Revolt, p. 56.

[21] Hicks, op. cit., p. 56.

needs. Before the days of railroad transportation when markets were hard to reach, the homesteaders produced what they needed for their own sustenance and that which was needed to exchange for other needed products.

In the years previous to the establishment of Miltonvale, doctors were quite scarce, with the closest one being over ten miles away, depending on where one lived. Mrs. Brooks, the wife of Major Brooks, was quite capable in times of sickness and was much in demand. She had a small brown Indian pony which she rode from place to place when called upon for help.[22] These and other hardships and sufferings that the early settlers underwent, causes one to wonder why they migrated to the plains of Kansas, and the reasons are many and varied.

A surplus industrial population which existed after the Civil War was a pressing economic factor which influenced the settlement of the west. A million and a half men were discharged from government employment and many industries related to the war effort were dismantled. It has been estimated that, in 1865, one-fifth of the able bodied men of the country were unemployed by the ending of the Civil War.[23] No doubt some of these were absorbed in the more settled regions of the east but many turned west to the land of promise.

The attraction of cheap land drew many settlers. Those who had ready cash could buy land from the railroads for a few dollars an acre, or from the states which had acquired land through the

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[22] Interview with Mrs. Clara Kuhnle, July 16, 1955.

[23] Solon J. Buck, The Granger Movement, p. 27.

Morrill Act. The Homestead Act of 1862 held promise of free land to all who would occupy it, and the legislation passed to make the offer more attractive to Civil War veterans had its effect on many servicemen.[24]

Immigration was another factor in the settlement of the plains of Kansas. In 1862 the number of immigrants into the United States had fallen to less than 90,000, but from that year their number steadily increased until it reached 459,000 in 1873. No doubt, the grasshopper plague of 1874 and hard times had their effect for immigration tapered off until, in 1878, it had reached a low of 138,000. After this year it began to rise again and reached the new high of 788,000 in 1882.[25] Starr township was not affected by this immigration as much as the State of Kansas as a whole. In 1875, out of 255 inhabitants in Starr township, 34 or 13 1/3 percent were foreign-born, whereas, Table 3 shows that the population of Starr township was 39, or a little less than 7 percent foreign-born in 1880. In Kansas this same year, the number of foreign-born was a little over 11 percent.[26] However, approximately 1 out of every 14 persons in Starr township, in 1880, had immigrated from a foreign land.

Publicity played a vital role in wooing settlers into the west. Land speculators, townsite promoters, railroad companies, and the local press added their touches to the rosy picture of a prosperous land just waiting for the taking. One of the poems of

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[24] Clark & Roberts, op. cit., p. 20.

[25] Buck, op. cit., p. 27.

[26] Clark & Roberts, op. cit., p. 50.

Table 3. Birthplace of inhabitants of Starr township in 1880.[27]

Birthplace	Number	Percent
Native born	526	93.1
New Hampshire	3	0.5
Vermont	5	0.9
Massachusetts	1	0.2
New York	30	5.3
New Jersey	1	0.2
Pennsylvania	30	5.3
Ohio	51	9.0
Indiana	46	8.1
Illinois	84	14.9
Michigan	9	1.6
Wisconsin	27	4.8
Iowa	54	9.6
Missouri	53	9.4
Nebraska	2	0.4
Kansas	111	19.6
Maryland	1	0.2
Virginia	5	0.9
West Virginia	1	0.2
Kentucky	9	1.6
Tennessee	2	0.4
Arkansas	1	0.2
Foreign born	39	6.9
England	2	0.4
Scotland	1	0.2
Ireland	18	3.2
Norway	2	0.4
Sweden	1	0.2
Switzerland	1	0.2
Germany	11	1.9
Canada	3	0.5
Total	565	100.0

the "boom" period portrays some of the feeling of that day:

> Tell me not in mournful numbers, that the town is full of gloom, for the man's a crank who slumbers in these bustling days of Boom. Life is real, life is earnest, and the grave is not its goal, every dollar that thouturnest, helps to make the old town roll. But enjoyment and not sorrow, is our destined end or way;

[27] Tenth Federal Census, 1880, Kansas, Vol. 4, Cloud, Starr township, pp. 1-12. Recorded at Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

> if you have no money, borrow--buy a corner lot each day! Lives of great men all remind us, we can win immortal fame, let us leave the chumps behind us, and we'll get there just the same. In this world's broad field of battle, in the bivouac of life, let us make the dry bones rattle--buy a corner for your wife! Let us then be up and doing, with a heart for any fate, still achieving, still pursuing, booming early, booming late.[28]

After the founding of Miltonvale, the local News did much to boom the town. This local paper was owned by Pinkerton and H. G. McDonald, who also were in partnership in a real estate business. In 1883, they published a pamphlet entitled "The Golden Belt," which favorably advertised the town. In seeking subscriptions they advertised as follows:

> We have commenced work on the little messenger that we are to send out to attract some of the countless thousands who are ignorant of the advantages of this beautiful region of country. We are now receiving orders for them. Every man, woman, and child is or ought to be interested in turning emigration this way. It enhances the value of land, makes more society, brings in money and augments the happiness of us all.[29]

In 1884 "The Land Agent," another pamphlet, was sent out to advertise Miltonvale and the surrounding territory. In this pamphlet were given some examples of men living in the vicinity of Miltonvale who had prospered since settling in the community. "These examples scarcely amount to a 'drop in the bucket,' as compared to the hundreds who are yearly accumulating wealth and building up beautiful homes in this vicinity." Table 4 summarizes three of the examples included in this propaganda pamphlet. Also included were some instructions as to how to get to this area. The title of the paragraph read, "How to get to Cloud County," but

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[28] The Miltonvale News, April 7, 1887.

[29] Ibid., Jan. 19, Feb. 2, 1883.

the directions, if followed, would bring the settlers to Miltonvale.[30]

Table 4. Examples of "boom" advertising in 1884.

Settler	Date of settlement	Worth then	Present worth	Acres owned	Present evaluation	Per acre
S. G. Winters	1872	$650	$5,000	160	$3,500	$22
James Gordon	1872	82	8,000	280	5,000	18
I. Witcraft	1874	400	6,000	320	4,500	14

The newspaper, which came out weekly, did not fail to add fuel to the fire in the form of glowing descriptions of the area and impressive accounts concerning those who were growing rich without much effort. One of the great hindrances to this process of getting rich on the farms of this area, especially in 1884, was a shortage of cobs, for, according to the News:

> John Miller says that the corn in this country is nearly all going to waste by running off at the end of the cobs. It seems that there is always something in the way so it is almost impossible to ascertain just what Kansas can do in the way of raising big crops. This year we have had no storms, hail or drouth to injure the corn, and it has been generally hoped that 1884 would tell just what Kansas can do, but alas! there is now a deficiency of cob, and what the loss on this account will be can never be fully demonstrated. Poor Kansas![31]

The railroads played a large part in settling the west, not only as a means of transportation, but as an advertising agency and land agent. The Union Pacific, which took over control of the Kansas Central Railroad on January 1, 1882,[32] circulated 1,200,000

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[30] The Land Agent, 1884, Pinkerton & McDonald, Miltonvale News Press, Miltonvale, Kansas, 1884.

[31] The Miltonvale News, Aug. 14, 1884.

[32] Crimmins, op. cit., p. 26.

copies of different documents and pamphlets that year relating to the resources of Kansas.[33]

Other inventions such as the steel prairie breaker and the sulky and gang plows also contributed to agricultural expansion, expediting the task of breaking the prairie sod and bringing more land under cultivation. Costs were lowered and labor requirements reduced when such inventions as the adjustable straight-tooth harrow, the disc harrow, the field cultivator, and the lister appeared.[34]

The settlers around Miltonvale had within their ranks a number of aspiring inventors. In 1883 W. F. Reeves applied for a patent on a cultivator of his own invention. The new machine captured first prize at the State Fair at Topeka, and at Minneapolis it won the blue ribbon. It was described as a machine consisting of "an ordinary smoother with two knives of proper shape attached to the under side, running one or two inches below the surface."[35] On July 27, 1886, W. F. and H. C. Reeves were granted a patent on a "combined weed cutter and harrow."[36] A patent fender was invented by McArthur and McCoy, the first man a lawyer of sorts and the latter a farmer.[37]

The fuel bills in Kansas were an expensive item which no doubt motivated William McKBurns to invent a patent heater. He

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[33] The Miltonvale News, Feb. 9, 1883.

[34] Clark & Roberts, op. cit., p. 25; Buck, op. cit., p. 27.

[35] The Miltonvale News, Oct. 12, 1883.

[36] The Miltonvale Star, Aug. 12, 1886.

[37] The Miltonvale News, July 7, 1887; interview with Pleasant Fry, Miltonvale, Kansas, July 12, 1955.

retired from the grocery business and traveled over the area, selling his invention, which was described as a heater "which will save fuel and economize heat, which is a great feature in Kansas."[38]

The "Flying Buzzard" was the name of an implement invented by Luther Johnson to weed listed corn. It was a combination of "the shares, bars and shanks of a right hand breaking plow and of a left hand stirring plow, blocked and bolted to a single beam."[39]

James Stogdill and J. B. Morris invented a new lister and applied for a patent. It was exhibited at the Kansas City Exposition in the fall of 1888.[40]

Ellis, who was editor of the Oak Hill Herald, a small town paper published at Oak Hill, about 13 miles southeast of Miltonvale, invented and patented a device to hold a 50-pound sack of flour, in 1889. The following is a description of it:

> At the bottom is a sieve, a place for coffee, tea, spices, etc. A glass shows the amount of flour to be used. This hangs over the kitchen table. This ingenius and valuable article is about 30 inches long and perhaps 12 inches square. It is the most valuable invention we have seen in a long time.[41]

A type writing machine was invented by W. S. Phelps that would "work on any kind of blank books, and is exactly calculated for bankers, merchants, and county officials. It will fill the 'long felt want' all over the world." Phelps was offered $3,000

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[38] Miltonvale Chieftain, Dec. 8, 1887.
[39] The Miltonvale News, June 14, 1888.
[40] Ibid., Sept. 20, 1888.
[41] Ibid., July 18, 1889.

for half interest in his invention but declined the offer.[42]

The windmill was an essential part of plains farming and any new improvements in this equipment were always welcome. A new windmill which he called the "World Beater," was patented by W. T. Bond. The Manchester Sun commented that "it beat anything in the way of a windmill that has been patented yet."[43]

A corn cutter was patented in the nineties by Kale Kuhnle.[44]

These and other inventions all contributed directly or indirectly to the conquering of the plains and to expansion of agriculture, thus inducing more settlers to move west.

Upon arrival on the plains, the settler would erect some type of living quarters. Often the dugout or the sod house, called "Dobie," would suffice until a better home could be built. The dugout was generally located on the side of a hill or at the base of a ridge. Sometimes these were lined with rock for walls but the ground often sufficed for floor and walls. A large fork was set in the ground at each corner and poles laid across these with a ridge pole in the center to hold the heavy sod placed as a covering for the roof.[45]

The sod house or "dobie" was made of three-foot strips of prairie sod. The inside was often lined with muslin and the floor was "plastered" with clay if it was available.[46]

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[42] Ibid., March 6, 1890.

[43] The Weekly Press, June 9, 1893.

[44] The Tribune, Aug. 17, 1894.

[45] Hollibaugh, op. cit., p. 79.

[46] Interview with Mrs. Clara Kuhnle, Miltonvale, Kansas, July 16, 1955.

The land was broken with a wood beam plow with a steel beam in the center. Two team of oxen pulled this 14-inch single bottom plow to break the prairie sod. Horses were sometimes used, also. After the sod was turned, the corn which was the main crop, would be planted by hand. The wheat was sown broadcast by hand with ten acres considered a good planting. Other crops planted were buckwheat and caster beans. Hay was the main cattle feed.

Harvesting of the wheat was an interesting process. The wheat was cut with a cradle, i.e., a scythe which had a small shelf on which the wheat lay. This wheat was tipped off in a row and another cut was taken. After a time the self-drop mower made faster work of the cutting. It had a small platform just back of the cutter bar which tipped after so much wheat was cut. The farmer would then go down the row and bind the wheat by hand into small bundles which were later stacked or thrashed.[47]

It was a large undertaking to feed a harvest crew and a lot of food was consumed. Cornbread, potatoes, tomatoes, green beans, peas, radishes, onions, homemade sauerkraut, noodles, fried chicken, pork, and dried or canned beef were some of the foods served. For dessert there were fruits, such as apples, peaches, wild plums, wild elderberries, wild choke cherries, and wild grapes, or molasses cake frosted with egg frosting, which was a special treat, or custard pies, for eggs and milk were always available on the farm. The Brooks family, having come from Kentucky originally,

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[47] Interview with Pleasant Fry, July 12, 1955.

had to have their southern fried chicken and corn meal mush. Major Brooks also raised tobacco, a product extensively raised in Kentucky.[48]

As shown in Table 3, Illinois contributed the largest number of settlers to Starr township, outside of Kansas itself, with Iowa, Missouri, and Ohio following in that order. Ireland made the greatest contribution of any foreign country with Germany second. There were no large foreign settlements in Starr township but to the northwest, in Aurora township, there were a number of French Canadian settlers. In the townships of Solomon, Lyon, and Meredith, to the west of Starr township, there were settlements of Irish.[49] These and other settlers, because of economic factors and the attraction of cheap land or because of the "boom" advertising, or other reasons, settled their business affairs, packed their bags, and traveled west to swell the number of those settling in the area around Miltonvale, bringing rapid growth and prosperity to this small railroad terminus.

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[48] Interview with Miss Elizabeth Fry, July 12, 1955; interview with Mrs. Clara Kuhnle, July 16, 1955.

[49] W. H. Carruth, "Foreign Settlements in Kansas," Kansas Univ. Quarterly, Vol. I, Oct., 1892, pp. 74-75.

CHAPTER III

THE GROWTH OF MILTONVALE

Miltonvale, as a trade center, began when W. T. Matthews moved his store to town from Starr Center in 1881. Following this, in the spring of 1882, George Myer began construction of a livery barn. Other businesses soon followed, among which was the hardware store owned by R. B. Miller and C. M. Phelps. By July of 1883 this business had enlarged until they were carrying a full line of hardware, clocks, jewelry, and farm implements. In the line of machinery they handled the Moline Plow Company's products, the Osborn and Company's harvesting machines, the Caldwell wagons, the Favorite, Tiger and Moline wire tooth rakes, and the Massilon thresher and patent self slacker.[1]

By March of 1883 a real building boom was in progress. The need for more buildings was pressing, for all the residences of the town were occupied and all the rooms over the business establishments were being taken as rapidly as they were completed. Continued growth of the town seemed assured.[2]

Shay, R. L. Catlin, and Ira Angelo, owners of a mill completed the spring of this year, advertised the sale of meals, chopped feed, bran, and two brands of flour, "The Silver Leaf" and "The Rising Sun." Within 60 days their flour was being inquired about from distances as far east as Baltimore.[3]

By the first of September, 1883, there were 304 inhabitants

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[1] Miltonvale News, July 6, 1883.
[2] Ibid., March 23, 1883.
[3] Ibid., June 1, 1883; July 6, 1883.

in the village of Miltonvale, which made it eligible for incorporation as a city of the third class. A petition was submitted to Judge Wilson, of the District Court of Cloud County, on September 10, requesting that the village of Miltonvale be incorporated "as a city of the third class, under the name and style of 'The City of Miltonvale.'"[4] On October 13 the first city election was held, with a mayor, five councilmen, and a police judge to be selected. The two major political parties in this very important election were the "Down Town Rats" and the "Up Town Bullies." Both major tickets for mayor were headed by C. E. McDaniel, and William S. Phelps was the selection of both parties for police judge.[5]

The latter part of this month saw the opening of the Commercial Hotel, with N. H. Eaves and a Mr. Wood as owners. In November the following structures were being erected or completed: a new meat market for Leon Lamore; a new school house; a new restaurant for J. Ingram; a new addition on the rear of the Jesse McDowell building; a warehouse on the rear of the Kuhnle store; and new residences for C. M. Phelps, R. B. Miller, Dell Barber, Ed Lamore, and F. S. Antes. Preparation was underway also for a new drug store and a bakery.[6]

Besides the business establishments listed in Table 5, there was a school, a church, two G. A. R. posts, an Odd Fellow's Lodge, and two city parks. Among the professions were three school

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[4] Ibid., Sept. 14, 1883.

[5] Ibid., Oct. 12, 1883.

[6] Ibid., Oct. 19 and Nov. 9, 1883.

Table 5. Miltonvale business establishments as of May, 1884.[7]

Business establishment	Number	Owner or manager
Bakery	1	J. Ellis Jones, proprietor
Bank	2	Hathaway & Stowe; W. R. Davis
Barber shop	2	S. H. Aldrich
Blacksmith shop	2	J. Robert Wilson
Boarding house	6	
Carpenter shop	1	
City Transfer line	1	Ackley & Matthews
Coal firm	3	Robb & Bright
Drug store	2	C. E. Scott; Charles Proctor
Dry goods and grocery	5	James McLead; S. J. Neal; C. E. McDaniel; Flora Brothers; G. Kuhnle
Flour mill	1	Shay, Catlin & Angelo
Furniture store	1	J. Jennings
Grain firm	4	C. E. McDaniel; G. G. Funnel; Matthews & Howe; Robb & Bright
Hardware store	3	Miller & Phelps; Broadus & Kirch; Phelps & Ertel
Harness shop	2	A. V. Stepp
Hotel	1	N. H. Eaves
Ice house	2	
Implement house	2	Robb & Bright
Insurance office	6	Charles Stock; Blackwood & Smith; Pinkerton & McDonald
Laundry	1	
Livery stable	2	Judson Remington; James Gordan
Lumber yard	2	Charles Taggert; George M. Whitney
Meat market	2	Joseph Coyer; Lamore & Young
Millinery store	2	Mary E. Heusted; Ida M. Phelps
Printing shop	1	Pinkerton & McDonald
Real estate office	3	Pinkerton & McDonald; Charles Stock; Blackwood & Smith
Repair shop	2	
Restaurant	3	J. Ingram; William Watson
Shoe shop	2	
Skating rink	1	
Tin shop	1	Miller & Phelps
Other:		
Art gallery	1	
Depot	1	Kansas Central Railroad
Post office	1	C. M. Phelps, postmaster
Round house	1	Kansas Central Railroad
Telegraph office	1	

[7] Ibid., Feb. 15 through May 15, 1884.

teachers, a music teacher, a minister, three physicians, a lawyer, a dentist, a jeweler, a telegraph operator and four printers. Besides these, there were auctioneers, milkmen, and painters.[8]

An experienced jeweler, A. Buchmann, located a store in September of 1884, and the following March, C. W. Jordan erected a new general store.[9]

A brick factory was established in Miltonvale in the latter part of 1885 with J. B. Wicklin as the manager. The product was sold without any trouble.[10]

A third bank was begun August 1, 1886, called "The Miltonvale State Bank." The bank was organized under the then new state law and started business with a capital stock of $5,000. The following officers operated the bank: W. P. Rice of Clyde, Kansas, president; W. E. Bush of Orwell, Vermont, vice-president; Edward Weck, cashier; and I. G. Cushman, assistant cashier.[11]

In the latter part of January, 1887, a board of trade was organized in Miltonvale, whose task seemed to be that of bringing in new business establishments and deciding whether others would be allowed to begin business in the town. After the board was organized, the first item considered was the establishment of a creamery and cheese factory in the town. After many convincing statements were presented to the board, they purchased stock as follows: Holt & Co., $1,000; Ira Angelo, $100; T. C. Bond, $100; J. H. Burbank, $250; C. E. McDaniel, $100; Babbit & Johnson, $100;

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[8] Loc. cit.

[9] Ibid., Sept. 18, 1884; Mar. 12, 1885.

[10] Ibid., Nov. 19, 1885.

[11] Ibid., Jan. 13, 1887. Hollibaugh, op. cit., p. 843.

Jack McDowell, $100; J. H. Bock, $100; C. Proctor, $100; making a total cash investment of $1,950. The board of directors elected J. H. Burbank as president, and the title given to the business was the "Miltonvale Creamery Association." By the middle of May the cheese and butter factory was in operation and business was very active, with 2,200 pounds of milk brought to the factory on May 12. The amount was expected to rise to 3,000 pounds daily when the factory was in full production.[12]

June of that year saw a cigar factory established and running "full blast."[13] A new opera house was also completed by the end of this month. It was begun in the spring of 1887, and was opened by the Ruby Lafayette Dramatic Company's presentation of "Foggs Ferry," on August 15 of that year. The price of admission for this opening was 50 cents for adults and 35 cents for children.[14]

All of this year there had been much activity with regard to the Santa Fe building a trunk line through Abilene and Miltonvale to Concordia. Finally the railroad arrived November 25, 1887, and the first passenger train over this road pulled into Miltonvale December 29.[15]

Growth from May of 1884 to January of 1888 included the following establishments which would be added to those listed in Table 5; the total number amounting to about 95 at the beginning of 1888: one bank, a blacksmith shop, a book store and news depot,

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12 Miltonvale News, Feb. 3 through May 12, 1887.
13 Ibid., June 9, 1887.
14 Ibid., May 5, June 30, and Aug. 18, 1887.
15 Ibid., Dec. 1, 1887; Jan. 5, 1888.

two brickyards, a cigar factory, a coal dealer, a creamery and cheese factory, a drug store, an elevator, a feed store, three hotels, two livery barns, two millinery stores, a newspaper, an opera house, and a real estate firm. Of course, several of these establishments were located in the same building. There were also two new churches, a Y. M. C. A., a W. C. T. U., a Masonic Lodge, a Workmen's Lodge, and, among the professions, another physician and two more lawyers.[16] By 1888 the town had become full grown. This period of growth was not without its setbacks, however, especially with regard to fire.

Before the town was a year old, the cry of "Fire!" was heard in her streets. Early Sunday morning of July 8, 1883, people were aroused from slumber when W. T. Matthews' store was discovered aflame. Nothing was saved from this store. The bank building next to it also burned, as did three other buildings. The bank, known as the Pioneer Bank of Miltonvale, was operated by Hathaway & Stowe. The postoffice was situated in this building and A. A. Stowe, the postmaster, had his living quarters over the bank. A small portion of Stowe's household goods was saved; the stamps, loose change, and some registered letters were saved; and a cupboard containing a quantity of blanks and stationery belonging to the banking business was carried from the burning building. The small safe contained money and some papers which were not destroyed. The drug store and residence of Dempster Scott was burned along with his stock of drugs but most of his home furnishings were saved. Mrs. S. E. Lamport's building, which was

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[16] Ibid., Jan. 12, 1888.

occupied by E. E. Heusted's furniture store with dwelling rooms above, was emptied almost completely before it burned. Aldrich's barber shop burned down but its contents were saved. The absence of wind and the heavy dew of the early morning kept the fire from spreading and causing much greater damage. The total loss amounted to more than $20,000. Just the month before, a heavy rain and wind storm struck the town, destroying James Gordon's livery barn and moved two other buildings from their foundations and caused other damage. Little had been done to clear up that earlier damage when the fire struck, which left the few months old town in rather sad shape. However, two weeks later these buildings were being rebuilt and several new ones were being erected.[17]

An unsuccessful attempt was made July 15, 1885, to burn down the whole business portion of Miltonvale, when a fire was started in the basement of W. L. Babbitt's hardware store. Gasoline and kerosene were mixed together and set afire, causing an explosion which wrenched the building, broke several panes of glass, and damaged the interior. Harvey Matthews, who was found badly burned about the face, was arrested and sentenced to one year imprisonment.[18]

The following year, again on a Sunday morning the first of August, 1886, at about two o'clock, there was the cry of "Fire!" This time the mill was aflame. There was no water system in the

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[17] The Clay Center Times, July 12, 1883; The Concordia Empire, July 12, 1883; The Miltonvale News, June 15 and July 20, 1883.

[18] The Miltonvale News, July 16, 1885 and Feb. 24, 1886.

town and little could be done to save the building. The loss was estimated at about $16,000. This was one of the most important industries of the town and its loss was quite a blow, not only to Miltonvale, but also to the surrounding community.[19]

In August of 1889, a fire department was organized and the city council voted to aid this organization to the amount of $65, but there seems to be little evidence that the department was of any great value to the town.[20] In 1893 the Mathews & Bond elevator was set on fire by a spark from a Santa Fe engine. After court claims with the Santa Fe were settled, there was still a loss of $3,600.[21]

At about 5:30 in the afternoon of November 15, 1900, the creamery burned to the ground. The owner carried $1,000 insurance and intended to rebuild immediately.[22]

Probably the greatest loss to the city by fire came on April 24, 1904, when 17 buildings in the business district were reduced to ashes. Little was saved because the buildings were of wood construction and were rapidly consumed. Little insurance had been taken out because the insurance companies were not anxious to carry the risk as there was no fire protection and the buildings were of wood construction and built close together.[23]

The losses sustained by this fire were estimated as follows:

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[19] Miltonvale Star, Aug. 5, 1886.
[20] Miltonvale News, Aug. 29, 1889.
[21] Hollibaugh, op. cit., p. 849.
[22] The Miltonvale Press, Nov. 16, 1900.
[23] The Miltonvale Record, April 29, 1904.

Hawks estate, six buildings, $5,000; J. M. Courtney, general merchandise, $3,500; L. E. Wideman, building, $800; L. E. Wideman, grocery stock, $2,200; T. C. Bond, building, $900; Joe Benoit, building, $1,200; W. L. Lowry, building, $600; W. L. Lowry, grocery stock, $700; Gus Buche, building, $1,000; Gus Buche, harness stock, $1,400; Phil Young, building, $1,000; Anton Urban, building, $900; Urban & Weddel, restaurant, $300; J. H. Williams, building, $500; J. H. Williams, jewelry stock, $700; Carrie Hubbell, millinery stock, $800; J. B. Goodreau, lunch room, $800; Record office, $1,000; O. B. Elliott, cash, $250; O. B. Elliott, household goods, $250; Mike Kircher, household goods, $400; J. W. Honey, photographer, $300; Dr. B. P. Smith, office, fixtures, and instruments, $300; H. P. Symons, carpenter tools, $300; Julius Moore, barber, $100; Stinson Hanson, building, $400; Dr. Hallowell, dentist, $300; Will Austill, ice cream outfit and tools, $100; J. W. Ayres, painter, $100; Fred Koster, telephones, $100.[24]

making a total estimated loss of $26,200. The town never did fully recover from this disaster, as is evidenced by vacant lots in this part of the business district today.

Another fire on August 21 of this same year destroyed the four-room brick grade school building when it was struck by lightning. During the winter of 1904-05 school was held in the different churches while a new four-room brick building was being constructed.[25]

The depression of the late eighties and early nineties had a definite effect on the growth of the town as the population figures in Table 6 plainly show. There had been a steady increase in population in Starr township in the years 1878, 1879, and 1880. In 1881 and 1882 the increase was quite small, but there is a definite jump in 1883 from a population of 581 to 718; this being the period of the arrival of the Kansas Central Railway and the

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[24] The Miltonvale Record, April 29, 1904.

[25] Ibid., Sept. 28, 1933.

Table 6. Population growth from 1878-1910.[26]

Year (March 1)	Cloud County	Starr Township	City of Miltonvale
1878	11,118	396	---
1879	12,656	455	---
1880	14,151	554	---
1881	14,838	567	---
1882	15,261	581	---
1883	16,186	718	304 (Sept.)
1884	18,448	571	407
1885	---	629	700[27]
1886	20,509	630 (est.)[28]	770 (est.)
1887	20,149	546 (est.)[29]	616 (est.)
1888	20,061	546	614
1889	18,321	546	419
1890	18,523	480	559
1891	16,978	464	459
1892	16,757	524	564
1893	17,528	509	516
1894	17,043	527	415
1895	16,974	494	408
1896	15,549	471	389
1897	16,366	453	415
1898	17,105	455	409
1899	17,511	444	390
1900	17,779	471	404
1901	17,836	461	418
1902	17,633	469	444
1903	17,453	514	379
1904	17,592	518	392
1905	18,193	505	405
1906	18,417	587	415
1907	18,244	430	440
1908	17,492	451	477
1909	18,587	483	582
1910	18,348	465	902

[26] Abstract of Statistical Rolls, for the years 1878-1910, as recorded in the County Clerk's office of Cloud County.

[27] The total population for the township, including Miltonvale, was 1,329. The Miltonvale News, May 14, 1885, gave the population of Miltonvale as 700 so I deducted this figure from the township total of 1,329, thus leaving 629 for the township.

[28] The total population for the township in 1886, including Miltonvale, was 1,401. I compared this year with the years 1885 and 1888 and estimated the population of Miltonvale for 1886 as being approximately 770.

[29] The total population for the township in 1887, including Miltonvale, was 1,162. I compared this year with the figures of the township in 1888 and 1889 and estimated the population of Miltonvale for 1887 as being approximately 616.

definite establishment of the town of Miltonvale. From 1884 on, the population figures of Miltonvale are not included in the township figures in Table 6, but the increase of the total population continued through 1886; the figure being 1,401 in that year. Optimism was running high for these were "boom" days. Inflation and speculation were evident in Miltonvale as well as elsewhere. In the spring of 1887 lots were selling at four times the price sought in the fall of 1886.[30] The coming of the Santa Fe was pushing land prices up tremendously. Speculation in land was evidenced as shown by the following news item:

> The beautiful 40 acres of timber land adjoining the City of Miltonvale on the northwest, and known as the Ira Angelo timber claim, will hereafter be known as Woodland Park. It has been purchased by an eastern gentleman and is on the market for sale, and if not sold by May 1, 1887, will be divided into acre lots and sold.[31]

The heavy snow storms of the winter of 1886-87 and the drought in progress in the summer of 1887 could not dampen the spirit of the editor of the Miltonvale Chieftain, for he saw the town on the verge of a boom, "not a mushroom boom, but a good solid growth. Already we see and hear evidences of the start. With the advent of the Santa Fe cars, men from different parts of the country will be here to invest their capital and erect houses."[32]

The coming of the Santa Fe may have delayed the "bust" and hard times in Miltonvale that were settling down upon the whole

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[30] Miltonvale News, March 3, 1887.
[31] Ibid., April 21, 1887.
[32] Miltonvale Chieftain, July 21, 1887.

frontier but the following descriptive account of this period would apply to Miltonvale as well as the rest of Kansas and other states:

> The summer of 1887, giving evidence of impending crop failure, called a halt to the boom. As the hot weeks wore on the number of real estate transfers and the prices paid for land and lots declined precipitately....Eastern investors, learning of the turn of events in the West, no longer clamored for western securities; while countless numbers of real estate men, mortgage vendors, railway promoters, and bankers went out of business altogether, many of them hopelessly bankrupt. The cattle industry on the northwestern plains was all but destroyed. The hot summer of 1886 had left the range in poor condition, and the winter of 1886-87 had been merciless. When spring came at last only a few pitiful remnants of the great herds remained. Speculative live-stock companies lost all they had invested; "cattle barons" and "bovine kings" ceased to exist; the ranges were almost stripped of cattle in a vain effort to satisfy the demands of creditors. Hard times settled down upon the whole frontier, not to be shaken off for a decade.
>
> Convinced by bitter experience that they had pushed too far into the arid West, people who had moved hopefully into western Kansas, Nebraska, Dakota, or beyond before 1887 now began to retrace their steps....Fully half the people of western Kansas left the country between 1888 and 1892.[33]

Two of the three banks of Miltonvale suspended business in 1888, and the third one was forced into the hands of a receiver in 1890.[34] The Miltonvale Chieftain blamed crop failures and hard times for its inability to publish a paper "up to our expectations this year."[35] Before the year was out, this paper had quit business. A number of newspaper publications attempted to establish themselves in Miltonvale between 1887 and 1897, eight or nine

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[33] Hicks, op. cit., pp. 31, 32.

[34] Hollibaugh, op. cit., p. 843.

[35] Miltonvale Chieftain, July 21, 1888.

in all, but after a few months or a year they went out of business. Even the Miltonvale News, which had begun publication soon after the town was founded, ceased publication in 1891.[36]

It was not an unusual sight in 1888 to see the white topped "prairie schooners" wending their way through Miltonvale, heading east.[37] This same year the United Presbyterian church congregation found it "financially impracticable" to meet their liabilities and support their pastor.[38] By 1889 several parties had left Miltonvale for other sections of the country in the hope of bettering their financial fortunes.[39]

The population figures as listed in Table 6 for Starr township for 1887 show a drop in population of 17 percent or 239 people. The drop in 1888 was only two in the township but in 1889 the drop was 195, all of these people having left the City of Miltonvale. This amounted to about 32 percent of the population of Miltonvale, proving a tremendous setback to the town's growth.

There was a very good corn crop in the fall of 1889 but the price, which went as low as ten cents a bushel, was not enough to more than pay for the raising of the corn so it was used as fuel in place of coal. In 1893 "hard times" were still in evidence for tramps were quite numerous in the streets of Miltonvale that year.[40]

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[36] History of Kansas Newspapers, p.
[37] Miltonvale Chieftain, Sept. 29, 1888.
[38] Ibid., Oct. 13, 1888.
[39] Miltonvale News, Jan. 17, 1889.
[40] The Weekly Press, Aug. 4, 1893.

Construction in the town was at a standstill for the most part during these depression years and its growth did not resume until after the building of Miltonvale Wesleyan College in 1909. In the spring of 1908 a meeting of the business men of Miltonvale with President Abbott, of the Kansas Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, resulted in an offer from the Commercial Club and some influential citizens to donate ten acres of land and $12,000 towards the establishment of a Wesleyan school in Miltonvale. This offer was accepted and the building committee, on March 26, 1909, accepted a bid of $13,348.50 for construction of the college building. The school opened in the fall of that year with 60 students enrolled by the end of the first day, the first year's total enrollment being 144.[41] By 1910 the population, as shown in Table 6, had reached a new high in the town of Miltonvale with a total of 902, although the total population of the township was 34 less than the all time high of 1,401 as listed in 1886.

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[41] William G. Smith, The History of Church-Controlled Colleges in the Wesleyan Methodist Church, pp. 194, 204. Unpublished Ph. D. Thesis, New York University, 1951.

CHAPTER IV

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Before the west could be fully settled, many difficulties had to be overcome. Fuel, water, cultivation of the soil, and marketing one's products were a few of the many difficult problems which had to be solved. Improvement of transportation facilities helped solve the fuel and marketing problems while improved communication contributed to the solution of soil cultivation and the water problem, for as ideas were exchanged, new inventions were developed to help improve the production output of the land.

Early transportation consisted of walking, riding a horse, or using a wagon or buggy and team. Oxen were sometimes used to pull wagons, especially if no horses were available. The trading centers were so far before the railroad came that it would take from a day to a week to make the trip there and back, depending on the distance and weather conditions. In the seventies the Zahns would go to Waterville to mill which took about a week. The father would go to Junction City as often as once a month to trade, the trip taking three days with a wagon and team of horses.[1] The trip to Clay Center took about 24 hours, depending on one's location from the town. If the trip was to be made in one day, one had to rise as early as 2:00 or 3:00 A.M. in order to be home the following morning at that time.[2]

The first "roads" used for these marketing trips consisted of the open prairie. However, as the townships became more settled,

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[1] Miltonvale Record, Sept. 28, 1933.
[2] Interview with Pleasant Fry, July 12, 1955.

a number of inhabitants petitioned the County Commissioners to allow the opening of a road between section lines, specifying how far and between what sections of the township the road was to run.

The coming of the Kansas Central Railway into Starr township on April 1, 1882, changed the marketing conditions materially, for now the farmers of the township had a marketing center much nearer home where they could sell their products and buy the necessary supplies. Then, too, the coming of the railroad gave them quicker and more comfortable transportation to other towns near and far. The closer and quicker means of transportation was an encouragement to the settlers to cultivate more ground and raise better crops, for the market was now close enough to make it profitable.

The Kansas Central was extended from Onaga, beginning in April, 1879, to Miltonvale, a distance of almost 88 miles at a cost of approximately $3,735 a mile. The total distance from Leavenworth to Miltonvale was 165.39 miles. Although the charter called for 300 more miles of track, no attempt was made to extend the road from Miltonvale.

The Union Pacific, on January 1, 1882, formally took over the road and operated it as an associated line until 1893, when the parent company passed into receivership. In 1897 the Kansas Central was reorganized as the Leavenworth, Kansas and Western, and operated under that name until 1908 when it again became a part of the Union Pacific.[3]

This was the only narrow-gauge railroad in Kansas and it did not prove very successful so in April, 1890, the work of widening

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[3] Crimmins, op. cit., pp. 26-27.

the tracks at Miltonvale was begun. The first train to come into town on the standard-gauge arrived at 8:40 P.M., June 4, 1890.[4]

In the year 1883 there was no small stir about the possibilities of the Salina, Lincoln & Freemont Railroad being built from Lincoln, Nebraska, through Miltonvale to Salina, Kansas. Bonds were voted through in Starr township but the road did not materialize.[5]

Again in 1885 there was some hope of getting a north-south railroad through Miltonvale. This time it was to run from Hope, Kansas, to Concordia, via Miltonvale. This, too, fell through.[6]

The Kansas Central Railroad solved the mail problem from Clay Center to Miltonvale but communication with Minneapolis, Concordia, and Glasco was still maintained by stagecoach, with the stages going to Minneapolis and Concordia tri-weekly, and to Glasco twice a week.[7] Finally, in May of 1887, the Santa Fe road crew moved into Miltonvale to build their line through the town to Concordia. At last, Miltonvale was getting the north-south line which had been anticipated in other years but which had failed to materialize. The bonds were voted through on March 15, 1887, in the town and on April 12 the township passed the bond issue by a

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[4] The Miltonvale News, April 3 and June 12, 1890. On January 10, 1935, the road from Clay Center east to Knox was abandoned, the section from Clay Center west to Miltonvale being used as a part of the Junction City to Concordia Branch of the Union Pacific, rather than its own section to Concordia. See Crimmins, op. cit., pp. 32-34, for a fuller discussion of the history of the Kansas Central between 1908 and 1935.

[5] The Miltonvale News, July 20 and 27, 1883.

[6] Ibid., Dec. 3, 1885.

[7] Kansas State Gazetteer, 4:1002-1003, 1884-85.

vote of 142 for and 18 against. The first train of the Santa Fe arrived at 11:45 A.M. on November 25, 1887. The depot was completed the next month and passenger service was begun. The train was composed of an engine, a baggage and mail car, and one passenger coach. This line put Miltonvale within 40 minutes of Concordia, the county seat. Optimism was running high as the speculators and businessmen competed to buy land in Miltonvale. The editor of the Miltonvale News thought the population would almost triple within a few months. Prices doubled on property and labor was quite scarce. Contractors were being pushed to the limit to meet the demands of those who wanted to build.[8] However, the population figures in Table 6 show that the population in 1888 dropped a third from the previous year. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe failed to bring the permanent prosperity and growth to the town that was anticipated.

Early means of communication centered mainly around the postoffices. Green Cove and Zahnville seem to be the earliest ones located in the southeast part of Cloud County. Zahnville Post Office was in existence before Starr township was organized, for the first election of officers for the township was ordered to be held at this postoffice November 4, 1873.[9] Later on the mail was sent to Starr Center, which was located in the approximate center of the township. The postmaster, who also was owner of the store in which the postoffice was located, was W. T. Matthews.

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[8] The Miltonvale News, May 5, 1887; March 17, 1887; April 14, 1887; and Dec. 1, 1887.

[9] Cloud County Commissioners' Journal A, p. 186.

He moved his store to Miltonvale sometime in 1881 and continued as postmaster until the following summer when he resigned. After his resignation, C. M. Phelps was appointed postmaster and served until 1885, when H. P. Flora was appointed to serve under the Democratic administration of President Grover Cleveland.[10]

With the coming of the Kansas Central in 1882, there came also a quicker means of communication; the charter had called for a telegraph line to be included in the construction of the railroad. This made rapid communication with other areas of the country possible and helped to tie Miltonvale more closely to other towns near and far.

Another instrument of communication and the spreading of ideas and information was the newspaper. The Miltonvale News was the first paper to be sold in Miltonvale. The first issue was published August 4, 1882, and was printed at the Dispatch office in Clay Center, Kansas. Within a few weeks the material of the Glasco, Kansas, printing office was purchased and removed to Miltonvale. The first issue of the News to be published in Miltonvale was the issue of September 29, 1882. The real estate firm of Pinkerton & Bower was the publisher.[11] By April of 1885 the News was being sent to Illinois, Ohio, Massachusetts, Missouri, Minnesota, Iowa, West Virginia, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Michigan, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, New York, Indiana, Washington (territory), New Mexico, Canada, California, Arkansas, Oregon, Holland, and

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[10] Hollibaugh, op. cit., pp. 838-839.

[11] The Miltonvale News, Aug. 18, Sept. 4 and 29, 1882.

Norway.[12] In 1891 the News went out of business.[13]

In July of 1885 C. W. Robb began publication of the Miltonvale Star but it was a short-lived undertaking and ceased publication August 26, 1886.[14]

The third newspaper to be published in Miltonvale was the Miltonvale Chieftain, which came out the latter part of July, 1887, and was edited by C. W. Trowbridge. It ceased publication the following year.[15]

Other newspapers which were published in Miltonvale are: The Miltonvale Review, from July 25 to November 14, 1889; the Advance, from January 15 to April 6, 1892; The Reporter, from February 25 to March 17, 1892; The Miltonvale Echo, from July 26, 1892, to January 6, 1893; Miltonvale Press, 1892-93; The Miltonvale Leader, August 31, 1893 to January 4, 1894; Miltonvale Tribune, 1894; The Miltonvale Press, 1896-98; and the Miltonvale Record, from 1901 on.[16]

The Miltonvale Telephone Company was organized in June of 1901, with Fredrick Koster as owner and manager. His daughter, Ella M. Koster, was secretary, and his son, John F. Koster, was treasurer.[17]

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[12] Ibid., April 9, 1885.

[13] Hollibaugh, op. cit., p. 173.

[14] Hollibaugh, op. cit., p. 173; The Miltonvale News, July 9 and Sept. 17, 1885.

[15] The Miltonvale News, July 28, 1887; Hollibaugh, op. cit., p. 173.

[16] Hollibaugh, op. cit., p. 173.

[17] Hollibaugh, op. cit., p. 851.

Through the years the various improvements in transportation and communication contributed their part to the economic and population growth of Miltonvale and the surrounding area, as well as making possible closer and more convenient social and political ties, locally, nationally and internationally.

CHAPTER V

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIFE OF MILTONVALE

Churches

Church activities played an important part in the social history of Miltonvale. By 1910 there were five organized churches in the town: the United Presbyterian church, the First Methodist Episcopal church, the Church of Christ, the Wesleyan Methodist church, and the Roman Catholic church.

The United Presbyterian church was the first to be organized, June 7, 1882, with seven members, two men and five women. The church building was erected this same year with the Board of Church Erection donating $700 and loaning the church $200. The building when completed cost $1,250. By 1886 the church had a membership of 46. This year the $200 borrowed from the erection board was paid and a parsonage was built. In 1888, the year of crop failure and depression, the church had its highest membership, reaching 89.[1]

The First Methodist Episcopal church of Miltonvale was chartered April 27, 1883. Reverend W. S. Morrison was sent to organize the Miltonvale circuit by the Northwest Kansas conference of the Methodist Episcopal church. During this year lots were purchased and the parsonage was erected. In 1884 lots were bought and the foundation of the church was laid. Reverend S. L. Semans replaced Rev. Morrison as pastor in 1885 and continued the work of erecting the church structure which was completed by August, 1885, and

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[1] Hollibaugh, op. cit., pp. 839-840.

dedicated August 30, 1885. The size of the structure was 50 feet in length and 28 feet in width. The height of the steeple was 45 feet. The Church Extension Society of the Methodist Episcopal church granted the trustees a loan of $300, and the balance of $1,300 was raised among the members and friends, making the total cost of the church about $1,600.[2]

The Methodist Ladies' Aid Society was organized in September of 1885 with the following officers: President, Mrs. S. L. Semans; Vice President, Mrs. W. Phelps; Secretary, Miss Alice Olmstead; and Treasurer, Mrs. Black.[3]

The Mite Society of the Methodist Episcopal church contributed much to the social life of the church. On one occasion the following Musical and Literary Entertainment program was presented by the society:[4]

Programme

Singing.....by audience	Recitation....George Beatty
Invocation	Song.....Gertie Babbitt
Instrumental....Mrs. Symons	Instrumental..J. C. Cline
Recitation.....Willie Bond	Recitation....E. Worthen
Song.....J. C. Cline	Song.....Male Quartet
Recitation.....Clara Burns	Recitation....Alice Bond
Song.....Mrs. Symons	Instrumental..Mrs. Symons

Doxology

On another occasion they sponsored an ice cream festival in Miller's store building.[5] These are a few examples of the many activities they engaged in to raise money for church purposes.

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[2] Ibid., p. 842; Miltonvale News, June 12, 1884; Ibid., May 14, 1885; Ibid., Aug. 6, 1885.

[3] Ibid., Sept. 17, 1885.

[4] The Miltonvale Chieftain, April 28, 1888.

[5] Ibid., June 9, 1888.

The Sulphur Springs class was added to Miltonvale in 1886 and the membership of the two churches in 1904 totaled 88. The church of Miltonvale had a membership of 45 and 18 probationers, and the Sulphur Springs church which had been moved to Aurora in 1897 had a membership of 25.[6]

The Church of Christ was organized April 17, 1884, with a charter membership of 26, many of them coming from the country districts. They worshipped in the school house until the Methodist Episcopal church building was erected. They had assisted in the building of this church edifice so worshipped there on alternate Sundays but later returned to the school house. In May, 1886, the people of the Christian church began raising money for their new church building and the foundation of this edifice was laid by October of that year. The new building was opened for religious worship Sunday, February 13, 1887, and was dedicated the first Sunday in April, 1887. During the dedication service the entire debt on the church was met in the offering taken. The building was of brick construction and cost about $4,000. The size of the church was 50 feet long and 30 feet wide and was seated with 216 chairs. The membership of the church in 1904 was about 100.[7]

The Miltonvale Wesleyan Methodist church was organized on August 22, 1909, with 30 charter members. Soon after Miltonvale Wesleyan College was established, a number of Wesleyan families moved here to give their children the opportunity to attend the school. It was evident before the school opened that year that a

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[6] Hollibaugh, op. cit., pp. 842, 843.

[7] Ibid., p. 843; The Miltonvale News, May 7, 1886, Oct. 8, 1886, Feb. 10, 1887, March 10, 1887, and April 7, 1887.

sufficient number were on hand to establish a church so the organization was effected when those who desired to organize met at the Camp Ground Dining Hall, just west of the College Campus. Their first pastor was H. S. Abbott.[8]

The first Roman Catholic family to come to Miltonvale was James H. Burbank, who arrived in 1877. This family attended Mass at Meredith until 1883, when Rev. K. T. Withoff, from Delphos, came to Miltonvale to hold Mass.[9] Reverend Benchler started a Roman Catholic mission in June of 1885, with the intention of building a church in Miltonvale after a time.[10] In November of 1888 Rev. Fitspatrick began holding services at the Opera House every other week.[11] A number of other clergymen ministered to the families of the Roman Catholic faith before a church was constructed. However, on July 15, 1909, a building site was purchased from William L. and Clara B. Babbit at a cost of $800. Construction of the church was begun the following year and the cornerstone was laid September 21, 1910. Reverend R. J. Mattingly was the priest in charge at this time. The church building is of brick construction and measures 60 feet by 32 feet. It is of Gothic structure and stands at the north edge of Miltonvale, overlooking the town. It was completed in the spring of 1911, at a cost of $5,000.[12]

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[8] T. J. Pomeroy, History of the Kansas Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, p. 77. Unpublished material obtained from T. J. Pomeroy, Miltonvale, Kansas, Sept. 26, 1955.

[9] Miltonvale. Unpublished history of the Miltonvale Roman Catholic church obtained from Rev. Maurice Dion, Miltonvale, Kansas, Sept. 27, 1955.

[10] The Miltonvale News, June 4, 1885.

[11] Ibid., Nov. 8, 1888.

[12] Unpublished history of the Miltonvale Roman Catholic church.

A First Day Advent Church was organized in September, 1888, with about 15 people represented in the organization. The officers were: O. A. Loomis, Elder; J. Matthews, Clerk; S. Robb, Deacon. They met every Sunday in the High School building at 3:00 P.M.[13] There is no record of their having built a church building or parsonage and they are not mentioned in Hollibaugh's Biographical History of Cloud County, so it may be assumed that they were disbanded previous to 1904 when this book was published.

Other religious organizations present in Miltonvale were the W. C. T. U. and the Y. M. C. A. The W. C. T. U. was organized in April of 1885, with the following officers elected: President, Mrs. Lizzie Hughs; Vice Presidents, Mrs. Antes from the United Brethren church, Mrs. Badger from the Christian church, Mrs. Davis from the United Presbyterian church, and Mrs. Phelps from the Methodist Episcopal church; Secretary, Mrs. A. J. Hanna; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Charles Wilson; and Treasurer, Mrs. J. W. Tayloe.[14]

These various religious organizations contributed greatly to the social and moral fiber of the community, providing a means for social relationships with other members of the community as well as contributing to the knowledge and education of many individuals in the field of human relationships.

Educational Organizations

The Educational Organizations of Miltonvale also made their

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[13] The Miltonvale News, Sept. 6 and 27, 1888.

[14] Ibid., April 30, 1885.

contribution to the social life of the community. The early schools of the Seventies were taught in dugouts, a room in a home, or in a crude building. Some of the first schools in the community were Limestone, Spring Mound, Woodruff, and Manning.[15] After Miltonvale was founded, a grade school building of wood construction was erected in 1883 consisting of two rooms. The building was 40 feet long and 30 feet wide and was so constructed that another story could be built on top.[16] By 1885 there was much agitation for a larger school building with four rooms, as the fall enrollment was expected to be over 300 students. There was a bond vote to raise the school house (the bonds amounting to $2,000) but the bonds were defeated. The following year another election was held which favored the bond issue. The specifications for the new building called for two stories, 12 feet to the story, the size of the building to be 36 feet wide and 64 feet long. The total cost amounted to about $5,000.[17]

In 1909, Miltonvale Wesleyan College was founded under the auspices of the Wesleyan Educational Society of Syracuse, New York. The campus consists of ten acres which were donated to the school by the Tootle Estate, and the people of the town gave $12,000 to apply on the administration building. In October, 1908, Silas W. Bond was elected president of the College and his first task was to supervise the building and organization of the school. The

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[15] Miltonvale Record, Oct. 5, 1933.

[16] Ibid., Sept. 28, 1933; Miltonvale News, Oct. 12, 1883.

[17] The Miltonvale News, Sept. 10, 1885, Aug. 20, 1885, June 18, 1886, June 25, 1886; The Miltonvale Star, July 29, 1886.

building committee met on March 26, 1909, to consider bids for the main building and accepted one at $13,348.50. The school opened September 4, 1909, although the building was not completed. The first year's enrollment was 144, with a staff of five full-time teachers and two who taught part-time. The school offered work on the elementary and high school levels, with Theological work for ministers. The instructional program did not include college level work until 1912.[18]

These educational institutions contributed much in the way of cultural and social development of the community as well as developing social responsibility in the students. Opportunities for educational advancement and social growth were to be found in other organizations as well, such as the select school run by Martha Austil, which was erected by her father, George Austil, in the North Addition of Miltonvale, in 1885.[19]

In February, 1886, J. A. Dixon started a school of bookkeeping which met at the school house every Wednesday evening.[20]

The editor of the Miltonvale News, J. C. Cline, opened a Free Reading Room in November of 1886, giving the citizens of the town and surrounding area an opportunity to develop their knowledge through the reading of good books.[21] In the spring of 1890, a Miltonvale Library Association was begun with 78 new books to start with. To belong to the association one had to pay two dollars

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[18] Smith, op. cit., pp. 194-5; Miltonvale Record, Sept. 28, 1933.

[19] The Miltonvale News, Oct. 1, 1885.

[20] Ibid., Feb. 3, 1886.

[21] Ibid., Nov. 25, 1886.

which purchased three books and gave the member the privilege of reading all the books belonging to the association.[22]

Musical talent was displayed as early as the fall of 1883 when a band was organized and gave its first appearance at a benefit ball in Fairchild's new building on the evening of September 21. There was also a singing class being taught by Addie Lee this same year. A ladies' cornet band was organized in the spring of 1890, which included Nora Squires, Josie and Maggie Mitchell, Cora and Mamie Weck, Annie Kuhnle, and Grace Cline. In one of their first appearances, at an ice cream social, they cleared $36.01.[23]

Other Organizations

In the field of sports Miltonvale presented some outstanding local talent, especially in baseball. As early as 1885 their baseball team won honors as the Central Kansas champions and held that title for a number of years, going undefeated until they began to play for money and hired outsiders and professionals. The following players composed the first baseball team: B. C. Weathers, catcher; Art Bright, pitcher; Fred Kuhnle, first base; Bill Eaves, second base; Emery Squires, third base; Frank Cline, short stop; Charley Kuhnle, left field; Frank Rose, center field; Al Morris, right field; Walter Wilson, pigtail. The umpire was Dr. Fairchild; Jim Neill was manager and Fred Kuhnle was captain.[24]

The need for a city auditorium or opera house was evident as

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[22] Ibid., April 10, 1890.

[23] Ibid., Sept. 14, 21, 1883; Oct. 19, 1883; and May 1, 1890.

[24] Miltonvale Record, Sept. 21, 1933.

a place for recreation and social gatherings of the community. The Kuhnle Opera House was completed in June of 1887 and was opened August 15 by the Ruby Lafayette Dramatic Company. It was a large structure measuring 70 feet long and 30 feet wide and seated 400 people. The Opera House was used for a number of activities other than professional dramatics. Political gatherings, Christmas programs, New Year's Eve Balls, and other social gatherings were held there. In 1889 local talent entitled, The Miltonvale Dramatic Company, gave "Turn of the Tide" in the Opera House and drew a large audience for the occasion.[25]

The political gatherings at the Opera House evolved around a number of issues and parties. The Republican party was generally the main political party in Miltonvale although three other parties were in evidence in the county in 1887. Their county tickets were advertised in the Miltonvale Chieftain and undoubtedly there were active members of each party in the town. The parties were the Union Labor Party, the Democratic Party, and the Third Party or the Prohibition Party.[26] The Union Labor Party presented its cause to the town, calling a Union Labor meeting in the Opera House October 28, 1887, at 7:00 P.M. Captain P. J. Meserez and others brought addresses and martial music was given as entertainment.[27] However, this year the Republican county ticket was elected.[28]

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[25] The Miltonvale News, May 5, June 30, and Aug. 4, 1887, and Jan. 24, 1889; Miltonvale Chieftain, Oct. 27, 1887 and Jan. 7, 1888; Miltonvale Record, Oct. 5, 1933.

[26] Miltonvale Chieftain, Nov. 3, 1887.

[27] Ibid., Oct. 26, 1887.

[28] Ibid., Nov. 10, 1887.

The following year the prohibitionists organized a club with 14 members which met twice a month.[29] The Prohibition Party, however, did not become a major threat to the Republicans but another party was becoming quite popular which did cause the Republican leaders much concern nationally as well as locally. That party became known as the Populist Party. Why the Populist Party arose can be seen in the following quotation:

> The Populist movement was conceived as an organization seeking to improve the plight of the farmers, who allegedly were being victimized by money-changers, railroad magnates, and farm equipment manufacturers. It stemmed from the Farmers' Alliance, organized in Kansas in 1887, and began to take on political significance in 1890, rapidly congealing into a third-party movement that was known first as the People's Party and later as the Populist Party.
>
> Most of the projects sponsored by the Populists have since become a part of the law of the land. The primary law, woman suffrage, the regulation of railroads, the supervision of stock and bond transactions, the direct election of United States senators, postal savings, the recall of public officials--all these movements were fundamental planks of the Populist Party.[30]

In 1887 the railroads were enjoying great prosperity, the banks were flourishing, and manufacturing enterprises were making great profit, yet agriculture failed to share the fruits of labor. Prices on the farmer's commodities were low, so low in fact that he could burn corn cheaper than coal, yet local freight rates were high, and the grain elevator companies enjoyed almost a complete monopoly in both buying and selling. This eliminated any possibility for direct shipment of grain and froze out the independent

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[29] The Miltonvale News, July 12, 1888.

[30] Charles C. Howes, This Place Called Kansas, p. 156.

buyer who lacked an elevator of his own. Thus the farmer had to sell to the privileged grain elevator for whatever price he was offered. The age of big business, trusts, combines, pools, and monopolies had arrived, and the farmer had no part in fixing the price for the products he sold or bought. With the coming of the "bust" came also the depreciation of property without any depreciation of mortgages or chattels. In fact, interest rates, already high, went still higher. Rates of 7 percent were now considered extremely low, and on chattels 10 percent was an unusually low rate; rates of 40 percent and above being sometimes charged. Foreclosures came thick and fast.[31] Barr estimates that in Kansas about 10,600 farms, or over 1,690,000 acres of land were lost through mortgage foreclosures and settlements outside of court in the year 1890 alone.[32]

These conditions convinced the farmer that justice could only be received through political action. In 1890 the People's party in Kansas elected five congressmen and a majority of the lower branch of the legislature. Ives was elected for attorney-general on the People's and Democratic tickets. Humphrey, the Republican candidate for governor, polled 115,124 against John Willits' 106,943, showing that the People's ticket was a close second.[33] The year 1891 was spent more in activities of an educational nature as a buildup for 1892.

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[31] See Hicks, op. cit., pp. 54-95 for a fuller discussion of the farmers' grievances of this period.

[32] Elizabeth N. Barr, in Kansas and Kansans, 2:1157.

[33] Ibid., 2:1169.

There was little doubt in the minds of Miltonvale citizens as to how the editor of the Miltonvale Press felt concerning the Populists. His brief comments, like those of many other editors in Kansas, and over the nation, were mostly in the form of criticism and derision, as the following illustrate:

> The Populists of Kansas claim they have polled the state and that they will carry the electoral ticket by 50,000, and the state ticket by 35,000 to 40,000. Why don't they claim the earth?[34]

The following appeared a few weeks before the 1892 election:

> The Populists are beginning to get rattled in this, the last inning of the great game, and not a man on the bases. Sling 'em another "out!"[35]

In this same issue he charged the speaker of a Populist meeting held a few days before, with falsifying the facts in regard to the economy in the county administration.

In spite of these derogatory remarks of the press, the People's Party carried Cloud County by a "fair majority," as the Press expressed it.[36] In the state the entire state ticket was elected, with 25 senators and 58 members of the House also elected on the Populist ticket.[37]

The Miltonvale Leader gives the tone of feeling in 1893 toward the People's Party in the following news item:

> The People's Party rally in this city on Tuesday (October 31) was very poorly attended considering the fact that one of the big guns from Arkansas, P. G. Montgomery, was the speaker. A pop rally at the present does not mean a rousing enthusiastic meeting as it did a year or two ago. For a report of the political points

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[34] Miltonvale Press, Sept. 16, 1892.
[35] Ibid., Oct. 21, 1892.
[36] Ibid., Nov. 11, 1892.
[37] Barr, op. cit., 2:1180.

discussed see stereotyped speeches of three years ago.[38]

In 1896 there was local support for Bryan as President on the Democratic ticket. No doubt many of these were former Populist followers who, along with the party as a whole, threw their weight behind Bryan and the free silver issue. In the state the fusionists' ticket was elected but Bryan was defeated.[39]

After the fusion of the Populists with the Democrats in 1896 the Populists in Starr township showed a rather lukewarm feeling toward their own party with little interest shown in the 1897 campaign locally.[40] By 1898 prosperity was returning, crops being better and prices higher, and the argument against gold as a monetary standard was being dispelled for gold was becoming more plentiful. The outbreak of the war with Spain also helped to divert attention from reforms at home. This year the Republican party elected all state officers, secured control of the state legislature, and elected every congressman but one.[41] For all practical purposes the Populist party was dead, although its doctrines showed amazing vitality; many of its projects having become a part of the law of the land.

The political rallies, parades, and speeches provided many opportunities for fellowship with one's neighbor. These were all a part of the social life of the community. There were a number of other social functions provided by the various lodges and clubs which had been organized in the town. Table 7 lists the various

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[38] The Miltonvale Leader, Nov. 2, 1893.
[39] The Miltonvale Press, Nov. 6, 1896; Barr, op. cit., 2:1202.
[40] The Miltonvale Press, Oct. 28, 1897.
[41] Hicks, op. cit., pp. 388-390, 395.

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organizations and number of charter members where possible.

Table 7. Miltonvale lodges and clubs.[42]

Lodge or Club	Date of organization	Charter members
Grand Army of Republic	August, 1882	10
Odd Fellows	Dec. 6, 1883	15
Mite & Literary Society	January, 1884	--
U. D. A. F. & A. M. (Mason)	June 2, 1884	13
Good Templars	Sept.22, 1884	54
Temperance & Debating	Dec. 22, 1884	--
Lecture & Amusement Bureau	July 26, 1886	7
Driving Park Ass'n.	Mar. 25, 1887	--
Prohibition Club	July 6, 1888	14
Demorest Contest Organization	December, 1888	--
Knights of Fythias	July, 1890	17
Loyal Mystic Legion Ass'n.	July 21, 1893	--

Sunday School Conventions, revivals, spelling bees, lyceums, dinners, dances, and many other functions contributed a part to the social life of the town and surrounding area. The public holidays were great occasions; people gathering in from miles around, by horse-back, train or buggy, with their basket dinner to spend the day. The Opera House was the meeting place where a speaker would be present and a program presented.[43] It was a great time of festivity, visiting, and games. Toward evening the people bade each other goodby, entered their conveyance, and returned to the daily round of activities after a day of relaxation and recreation. These occasions were not so often enjoyed as they are today

[42] The Miltonvale News, Jan. 18, 1884, Dec. 7, 1883, Jan. 4, 1884, June 5, 1884, Sept. 25, 1884, Dec. 25, 1884, March 31, 1887, July 12, 1888, Dec. 20, 1888, July 17, 1890; Miltonvale Star, July 29, 1886; The Weekly Press, July 21 and 28, 1893.

[43] Interview with Miss Elizabeth Fry, July 12, 1955, at Miltonvale, Kansas.

because the means of transportation and communication were slower and less convenient, yet probably there were more opportunities for originality in entertainment and development of one's own talents than may be found today.

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MILTONVALE: THE WESTERN TERMINUS OF THE NARROW GAUGE, TO 1910

by

EZRA R. MORGAN

A. B., Marion College, Marion, Indiana, 1948
B. D., Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky, 1950

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The purpose of this study was to present the settlement and growth of Miltonvale and the surrounding area, as a marketing center in an agricultural community. The economic, social, political, and spiritual activity discussed covers the years from 1867 to 1910, and centers around the area at the headwaters of Chapman Creek, in the southeastern part of Cloud County. Before 1867 the area was unsettled and had been seen by few white men other than those on hunting and exploring expeditions. Probably the earliest of those who explored the area was Colonel John C. Fremont who, in 1843, crossed through the center of what is now Starr Township, from the southeast to the northwest, and on across Cloud County.

Since employment in the east was difficult to find, in 1867 William Zahn and his family came from Hoboken, New Jersey and settled on Chapman Creek. Within six years there were enough settlers in the area to warrant the organization of Starr Township. With the coming of the Kansas Central Railroad in 1882, the "City of Miltonvale" sprang into existence. During the first five years there was steady and rapid growth of the town but the "bust" of 1887 brought the growth to an end for a number of years. Not until 1910 did the population reach and surpass the years just before the beginning of the depression in 1887.

In developing the history of Miltonvale, the procedure varied. The first step taken was for the writer to orient himself concerning the subject in mind. The Biographical History of Cloud County, by E. F. Hollibaugh, was an especially helpful source for this purpose, and contributed much general information on the subject.

Another phase of the orientation was accomplished through interviews with several of the citizens of Miltonvale who had some general knowledge of the town's history. The writer then sought information from the surrounding towns of Concordia, Glasco, and Clyde, inquiring at libraries, newspaper offices, and contacting private individuals as opportunity afforded. The Cloud County Abstract Office in Concordia gave the writer some valuable information about the ownership of the land before the town was begun and assisted in obtaining information with regard to the petition for incorporation of the town, as well as other information. The Concordia Public Library had a number of books on Kansas history which provided much background material for a better understanding of the local history in relation to the history of the state and of the nation during this period. Several books from the Library of Kansas State College were helpful for source material. After obtaining all the local material available on the subject, the writer spent two weeks at Topeka, Kansas, in the newspaper room and in the library of the Kansas Historical Society. The most important single source of information on the subject was The Miltonvale News, 1882-1891, on file at the Historical Society. These papers, along with a number of others which had been published at Miltonvale during the period of 1882 to 1910, were carefully examined.

The Register of Deeds of Cloud County was helpful in supplying information regarding population figures, minutes of the Cloud County Commissioners, and early plat books.

After obtaining material from four of the older local residents

of Miltonvale, the writer began organizing the material under five chapter headings.

The first chapter contains the history of the settlement and the development, organizationally, of Starr township. The coming of the Kansas Central Railroad and the founding of Miltonvale, including a short sketch of the founder of the town, end the chapter.

Chapter two reviews many of the hardships of the pioneers in their battle with the Indians and the elements, sickness and low prices. This chapter also points up some of the reasons for their migration to the plains of Kansas. Local inventions which contributed their part to the development of the area around Miltonvale are briefly referred to.

The third chapter deals with the growth of the town of Miltonvale, especially its business enterprises and its population. Fire and depression played a great part in hindering the town's growth. Its location away from the main line of any of the important railroads did much to set limitations on its growth from 1882 to 1910.

The different means of transportation and communication and their contribution to the development of the town and township are dealt with in chapter four.

The fifth chapter covers the religious, educational, civic and political history of the period, with an attempt to tie political developments ~~of~~ a local nature into the picture of national politics.